

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 19, 20, 23, 26 and 28 were allowed in the Office Action of February 10, 2009. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended. Claims 9, 11, 18, 22 and 27 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Currently, claims 1-4, 14-17, 19-21, 23, 26, and 28 are pending in the present application of which claims 1 and 26 are independent. No new matter has been added.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 16-17, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the recitation "similar metal materials" in claims 3 and 4 was held to be indefinite. Accordingly, Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to delete this terminology. Accordingly, allowance of claims 3 and 4, as well as their dependent claims 16-17 and 21, is respectfully requested.

The cancellation of claim 9 renders this rejection moot.

Claims 11 and 18, 22, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite on the grounds that claim 11 does not end with a period. The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Claims 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 8-188022, of record. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, as JP 8-188022 illustrates upstanding flanges of *single* thickness, not double thickness. However, in the

interest of furthering prosecution, claims 11 and 18 have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 11 and 18 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 8-188022 in view of U.S. 2006/098287. Again, claims 11 and 18 have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 27 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 8-188022 in view of Layman (of record) or Layman in combination with U.S. 2006/098287. The cancellation of claims 27 and 22 renders these rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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